

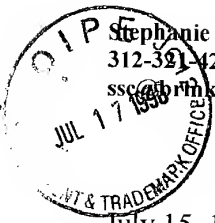
GAU 3616

**BRINKS  
HOFFER  
GILSON  
& LIONE**

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS

NBC TOWER - SUITE 3600  
455 N. CITYFRONT PLAZA DRIVE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611-5599  
FACSIMILE 312-321-4299  
TELEPHONE 312-321-4200

Stephanie S. Conis  
312-321-4274  
ssc@brinkshofer.com



July 15, 1998

Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**Re: Our Case No. 9237/75  
Richard J. Croft et al.  
SEED PLANTER APPARATUS AND METHOD**

Dear Sir:

Enclosed for filing in the United States Patent and Trademark Office are the following:

1. Information Disclosure Statement (including documents listed on Form PTO-1449) and
2. Form PTO-1449.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie S. Conis

SSC:svb  
Enclosures

RECEIVED  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600  
98 JUL 20 AM 10:51



I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope address to: the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on July 15, 1998

Stephanie S. Conis  
Name of Applicant, assignee or Registered Representative  
Stephanie S. Conis  
Signature of above  
7/15/98  
Date of Signature

#5, JPS  
89  
3/23/99

RECEIVED  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER  
98 JUL 20 AM 10:51

Our Case No. 9237/75

### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
Richard J. Croft et al.	)	
Serial No.: 09/061,084	)	Examiner:
Filing Date: April 15, 1998	)	Group Art Unit No.: 3616
For: SEED PLANTER APPARATUS AND METHOD	)	

### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In accordance with Applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, Applicant hereby submits the following Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97 - 1.98.

Applicant has enclosed copies of the documents listed on the enclosed form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that each of the enclosed documents be considered and made of record in this case. This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted

within three months of the date of filing, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

Some of the foreign patent documents are not in English. No translations of the complete text are readily available to Applicants. However, English Abstracts are attached to SU 1045-834 A, Fr 2.376.607 and DT 25 17 758 A1 from which the relevance of each document can be determined, and if needed, by reference to the corresponding drawings.

In addition, Applicants submit that the following concise statements of the relevance of the identified foreign patent documents meet the requirements under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3):

**SU 1045-834 A**

As shown in Figure 1, the seed tube 6 has a lengthwise split 8 in its outer wall which tapers toward the outlet of the seed tube.

**France 1.410.390**

Based solely on the drawings, this document appears to show a seed metering apparatus.

**France 2.135.702**

Based solely on the drawings, this document appears to show a seed metering apparatus.

**France 2.376.607**

This document appears to show a seed metering apparatus which has a fixed body which forms a vacuum chamber. In addition, a plate with pockets selects the seeds.

DT 25 17 758 A1

This document appears to show a seed metering apparatus which, in particular, has a disc with suction holes located on the circumference of the disk.

The Examiner is invited to review the full disclosure of each of the listed documents for his or her own independent evaluation of the pertinence of the document to the invention claimed in the above-captioned application.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Stephanie S. Conis  
Stephanie S. Conis  
Reg. No. 40,659  
Attorney for Applicants

Date: July 15, 1998

BRINKS HOFER  
GILSON & LIONE  
P. O. Box 10395  
Chicago, Illinois 60610  
(312) 321-4200